

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 07432 01 OF 02 292105Z

63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02

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R 291842Z SEP 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 535

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 7432

PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

H PASS CODEL

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 07432 01 OF 02 292105Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: MTN: AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22-26

REF: A. MTN GENEVA 7390; B. MTN GENEVA 7401; C. STATE 224255

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF (1) U.S. OPENING STATEMENT PRESENTING
U.S. PROPOSAL AND PLENARY ON SEP 22.

2. QUOTE THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN GROUP "AGRICULTURE" ON 8 MAY
WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH
WE COULD ALL AGREE TO BEGIN TO COME TO GRIPS WITH AGRICULTURAL
TRADE PROBLEMS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-GROUPS ON GRAINS, MEAT,
AND DAIRY PRODUCTS WAS A FURTHER USEFUL STEP TO ENSURE THAT TRADE
PROBLEMS AFFECTING THESE PARTICULAR PRODUCTS RECEIVE THE CONCENTRATED
ATTENTION THEY DESERVE. AT THE JULY MEETING OF GROUP "AGRICULTURE",
A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS WERE ADVANCED TO FLESH OUT A WORK
PROGRAMME TO BRING THE FULL RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES INTO
THE MAINSTREAM OF ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS CAREFULLY EXAMINED THESE PROPOSALS AND IS
NOW PREPARED TO SUGGEST A WORK PROGRAMME WE SINCERELY BELIEVE
ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT.

IN FORMULATING OUR POSITION FOR THIS MEETING, THE UNITED STATES
BELIEVES WE SHOULD ADOPT A WORK PROGRAMME WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND,
WILL ENABLE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" TO DEAL WITH THE AGRICULTURAL
ASPECTS OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS ALREADY UNDER WAY ELSEWHERE
IN THE MTN AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO LAUNCH A SERIES OF STEPS TO
ENSURE THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO PARTICIPANTS -
ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - RECEIVE ADEQUATE ATTENTION.
WE THEREFORE HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE WORK
PROGRAMME TO PUT FORWARD WHICH WE BELIEVE ENCOMPASSES THE PROPOSALS
MADE AT THE LAST MEETING CONCERNING QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS,
AND ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS
WELL AS ADDITIONAL WORK ON STANDARDS AND TARIFFS.

FIRST, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO AGREE
THAT BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON QUANTITATIVE
RESTRICTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MAY BE CARRIED
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 07432 01 OF 02 292105Z

OUT BY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SO DESIRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GROUP
"AGRICULTURE" ON THE BASIS OF THE GROUP ADOPTING THE SAME RULES AND P
RO-
CEDURES AS THOSE ESTABLISHED IN THE SUB-GROUP ON QUANTITATIVE
RESTRICTIONS. THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS, WHEREVER CONDUCTED, WILL BE REPORTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO
GROUP "AGRICULTURE" AND TO THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUB-GROUP
AND GROUP "AGRICULTURE" WILL TRANSMIT THESE RESULTS TO THE

QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUB-GROUP ON A TIMELY AND CONTINUOUS BASIS. IF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUB-GROUP UNDERTAKES CONSIDERATION OF A MULTILATERAL SOLUTION TO HANDLE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, SUCH CONSIDERATION WILL BE REFERRED TO GROUP "AGRICULTURE" FOR EXAMINATION OF ITS AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS AND TIMELY COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS OF ITS EXAMINATION BACK TO THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUB-GROUP.

SECONDLY, WE WISH TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE OTHER PROPOSALS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING OF GROUP "AGRICULTURE". WE BELIEVE EACH OF THESE PROPOSALS CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF MERIT AND WE CAN SUPPORT A WORK PROGRAMME ENCOMPASSING MANY ELEMENTS OF EACH OF THEM. WE SUGGEST THAT, FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OTHER THAN THOSE COVERED BY THE SUB-GROUPS MEAT, GRAINS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, GROUP "AGRICULTURE" SHOULD UNDERTAKE AN INITIAL EXAMINATION OF SPECIFIC BARRIERS AFFECTING TRADE IN THOSE PRODUCTS.

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH BARRIERS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SUCH AN EXAMINATION, THE GROUP SHOULD INITIALLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY PROBLEMS AFFECTING THOSE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARIAT AS BEING OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO ONE OR MORE COUNTRIES AND OF DIRECT INTEREST FOR THEIR TRADE.

BASED ON COUNTRY NOTIFICATIONS AND OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION, THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD PREPARE RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION ON A PRODUCT BASIS SUMMARIZING ALL BARRIERS AFFECTING TRADE IN THOSE PRODUCTS. THIS DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE GROUP IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY OF THE PRODUCTS LENDS ITSELF TO A MULTILATERAL SOLUTION. SHOULD THE GROUP FIND THAT THIS IS THE CASE, THE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" WOULD THEN WISH TO DECIDE HOW WORK ON THIS PRODUCT SHOULD PROCEED. IN ANY EVENT, APPROPRIATE ASPECTS OF ANY MULTILATERAL SOLUTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MTN GE 07432 01 OF 02 292105Z

BE COMMUNICATED TO OTHER RELEVANT MTN GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS ON A CONTINUING BASIS. FOR EXAMPLE, A SOLUTION AFFECTING TARIFFS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE TARIFF GROUP, A SOLUTION AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUB-GROUP, ETC. ANY INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS WOULD BE WORKED OUT JOINTLY.

SHOULD THE GROUP DECIDE THAT A PROBLEM OR BARRIER AFFECTING AN INDIVIDUAL PRODUCT LENDS ITSELF TO A BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL APPROACH, THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED MAY ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO GROUP "AGRICULTURE" AND TO THE OTHER RELEVANT GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS.

IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROCEDURE, THE GROUP WILL GIVE

PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THE TRADE BARRIERS NOTIFIED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A STEP TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION.

TWO ADDITIONAL AREAS WE CONSIDER RIPE FOR EXAMINATION IN GROUP "AGRICULTURE" ARE THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS FOR STANDARDS AND TARIFFS.

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 07432 02 OF 02 292124Z

63

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 7432

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 07432 02 OF 02 292124Z

AS REGARDS STANDARDS, WORK IS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN THE SUB-GROUP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS ON A DRAFT STANDARDS CODE WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE OF STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE NTM GROUP HAS ALREADY AGREED THAT THE APPLICABILITY OF THE GENERAL STANDARD RULES TO HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" AND THE GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR GROUP "AGRICULTURE" TO UNDERTAKE THIS EXAMINATION AT ITS NEXT MEETING AND PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF ITS WORK AT THE SUB-GROUP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME UNDERTAKE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE AN EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS AND PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF ITS EXAMINATION TO THE SUB-GROUP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

AS REGARDS TARIFFS, DELEGATIONS ARE AWARE THAT THE TARIFF GROUP IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING VARIOUS TARIFF FORMULAE FOR POSSIBLE USE AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THAT GROUP. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" COULD USEFULLY UNDERTAKE AN EXAMINATION OF SOME OR ALL OF THESE FORMULAE AT ITS NEXT MEETING. THE RESULTS OF THIS EXAMINATION AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" MAY HAVE REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE OF THESE FORMULAE SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE TARIFF GROUP TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FINAL SELECTION OF A NEGOTIATION FORMULA.

THE PROGRAMME WE HAVE PUT FORWARD IS ADMITTEDLY AN EXTENSIVE ONE. IT WOULD, WE BELIEVE, ENABLE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" TO PUT ASIDE THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE CONCERNED ALL OF US FOR TOO LONG AND TO BEGIN TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE REAL AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS A PRAGMATIC PROGRAMME IN THE SENSE THAT IT DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN WORK THAT CAN BE LAUNCHED IN GROUP "AGRICULTURE" WITHOUT DELAY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WORK ALREADY WELL ADVANCED IN OTHER GROUPS (STANDARDS AND QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS), BY ENSURING GROUP "AGRICULTURE'S" SUBSTANTIVE INPUT AT AN EARLY STAGE OF MTN CONSIDERATION OF TARIFFS, AND BY SETTING IN MOTION A NOTIFICATION, ANALYSIS AND

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 07432 02 OF 02 292124Z

CONSULTATION PROCEDURE FOR BARRIERS AFFECTING PRODUCTS NOT ALREADY WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF EXISTING SUB-GROUPS OF GROUP "AGRICULTURE" WITH PRIORITY ATTENTION TO PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD WILL ENABLE GROUP "AGRICULTURE" TO MOVE INTO THE STAGE OF CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WITHIN THE TERMS OF ITS MANDATE, TO TREAT THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS PROPOSED IN OTHER GROUPS, AND TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT THE RESULTS OF GROUP AGRICULTURE'S WORK WILL, AS APPROPRIATE BE PROVIDED TO THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF MEASURES GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS ON A TIMELY AND CONTINUOUS BASIS FOR INCORPORATION IN THE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE THE HARMONIOUS AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE ELEMENTS SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION. UNQTE

3. AT FINAL PLENARY SESSION SEP 26 USDEL (WALKER)
SUMMARIZED U.S. PROPOSAL REPORTED ABOVE WITH FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

(A) WITH RESPECT TO TARIFFS, AND IN RECOGNITION OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MANY DELEGATIONS DURING WEEK THAT IT WOULD BE PRMATURE FOR GROUP AGRICULTURE TO CONSIDER TARIFF FORMULAE, U.S. WILLING TO AGREE TO WORK PROGRAM IN THIS AREA TO REFER CONSIDERATION OF TARIFF FORMULAE QUOTE AT APPROPRIATE TIME UNQUOTE ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS TO THE TARIFF GROUP FOR INCORPORATION INTO MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS BEING DEVELOPED THERE;

(B) WITH RESPECT TO QR'S AFFECTING MEAT, GRAIN AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, U.S. PROPOSED THAT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON MEAT, GRAIN AND DAIRY PRODUCT QR'S COULD BE HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE PRODUCT SUBGROUPS THEMSELVES SUBJECT TO THE RESULTS OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS BEING REPORTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO GROUP AGRICULTURE AND TO THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SUBGROUP.WALKER

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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